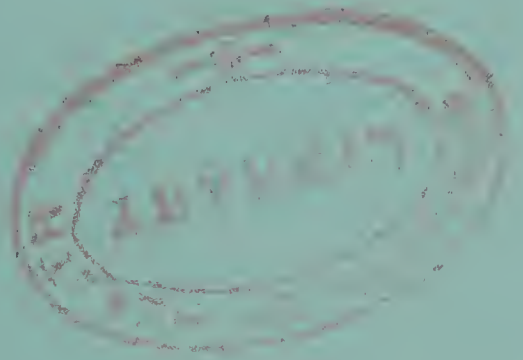


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Public Health Department.



ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE HEALTH OF THE
Skelmersdale Urban District

DURING THE YEAR

1940

BY

HERBERT E. MARSDEN, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

*Of Gray's Inn, Barrister-at-Law,
Justice of the Peace for the County of Lancaster.*

Medical Officer of Health.

—
ORMSKIRK:

T. HUTTON, "THE ADVERTISER" OFFICE, CHURCH STREET, ORMSKIRK.

SKELMERSDALE

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL,

1940.

Chairman :—J. WATKINSON, J P.

Vice-Chairman :—ED. DRAPER.

T. A. FARRIMOND, J.P.

T. R. ASPINWALL.

WALTER JAS. BROWN.

JAS. HODSON.

W. J. FENNEY.

THOS. HILTON.

HY. MARSDEN.

WM. SHAW.

JOHN JOS. VEALL.

J. T. WAREING.

JOHN WRIGHT.

WM. G. KEATES.

HORACE HEATON.

ANNUAL REPORT.

To the Chairman and Members of the Skelmersdale Urban District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report for the year 1940, which, in accordance with Government instructions, is merely statistical in form and conveys the bare essentials required to conserve our records.

Yours obediently,

(Signed) HERBERT E. MARSDEN,

Medical Officer of Health.

November, 1941.

SECTION A. STATISTICS OF THE AREA.

Medical Officer of Health—HERBERT E. MARSDEN,
J.P., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., Barrister-at-Law.

(Medical Officer of Health for the West Lancashire Rural District.)

Sanitary Inspector—G. A. GILL, Cert.S.I.B., M.S.I.A.

Area of District—1,942 acres.

Resident population (Registrar General's estimate at mid-1940)—5,838.

Number of inhabited houses, according to Rate Books at end of 1940—1,708.

Rateable value—£18,967. Sum represented by a penny rate—£72.

Skelmersdale is part of the Ormskirk employment area but no unemployment figures can be given as these are not available during war-time.

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS FOR 1939.

	Total	M.	F.
Live Births (Legitimate)	76	42	34
(Illegitimate)	3	1	2
Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population—13·5.			
Stillbirths	4	3	1
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births—48.			
Deaths.....	57	36	21
Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population—9·7			

Adjusted Death Rate (comparability factor 1·11)—10·7

	Deaths.
Deaths from Puerperal Causes :—	
Puerperal and Post-abortive sepsis	nil
Other puerperal causes	nil
Deaths of Infants under one year of age :—	
All infants per 1,000 live births.....	37
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	39
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	nil
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	7
,, ,, Measles (all ages)	nil
,, ,, Whooping Cough (all ages)	nil
,, ,, Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	nil

BIRTHS.

The number of births recorded in the Urban District during the year was 79, equal to a rate of 13·5 per 1,000 of the population. This represents an decrease of 1·8 on the figure for 1939, and an decrease of 0·8 on the five years' average 1935–1939.

DEATHS.

The total deaths registered in the Urban District during the year numbered 57. Of this number 36 were males and 21 were females.

The crude death rate for the year was thus 9·7 per 1,000, and was 2·0 per 100,0 less than in 1939, and 1·0 less than the mean of the five years 1935–1939.

The adjusted death rate (comparability factor 1·11) was 10·7 1,000.

There were no deaths during the year due to Zymotic or Epidemic diseases.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

There were 3 deaths of infants under one year of age, which gives an infantile mortality rate of 37 per 1,000 births.

Following is a comparison of the foregoing rates with those of England and Wales :—

	Birth Rate per 1000 living.	Death Rate per 1000 living.	Epidemic Death Rate per 1000 living.	Infantile Mortality per 1000 Births.
England and Wales ..	14.6	14.3	.016	55
Skelmersdale U.D. ..	13.5	9.7	nil.	37

CAUSES OF DEATH IN THE SKELMERSDALE URBAN DISTRICT, 1940.

Causes.	Males.	Females.
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers.....	—	—
Measles	—	—
Scarlet Fever	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—
Influenza	1	—
Encephalitis Lethargica	—	—
Cerebro-spinal Fever.....	—	—
Respiratory Tuberculosis	2	1
Other forms of tuberculosis.....	1	—
Syphilitic Diseases	—	—
Cancer.....	4	3
Diabetes	—	—
Intra cranial vascular lesions	4	3
Heart Disease	12	6
Other Diseases of Circulatory system	—	—
Bronchitis	4	3
Pneumonia	—	1
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	—	—
Diarrhœa (under 2 years)	—	—
Appendicitis	—	—
Other digestive diseases	—	—
Nephritis	—	2
Puerperal and post-abort. sepsis	—	—
Other maternal diseases	—	—
Premature birth	—	—
Congenital malformation, etc.	1	1
Suicide	—	—
Road Traffic accidents	—	1

Causes.		Males.	Females.
Other violent causees	.....	2	—
All other causes	.....	5	—
Deaths of Infants under 1 year.			
Total	.....	2	1
Legitimate	.....	2	1
Illegitimate	.....	—	—

SECTION B. GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

LABORATORY FACILITIES.

Pathological and bacteriological specimens are sent to the appropriate departments of the University of Liverpool, Wigan Infirmary, Southport Infirmary and to Messrs. Evans, Lescher and Webb, Runcorn, for examination.

Chemical analysis of water, when required, is done at Messrs. Evans' laboratories at Runcorn.

The only specimens examined during the year were eight swabs which were examined for the presence of *Bacillus Diphtheriæ*, all of which were negative.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

No ambulance is maintained in the township by the Local Authority or otherwise. Nevertheless, the ambulance facilities are completely adequate.

The Ormskirk General Hospital and the Wigan Royal Infirmary take cases from Skelmersdale, and both provide ambulances. The Lancashire Public Assistance Committee also have an ambulance attached to their Hospital at Ormskirk.

The West Lancashire Rural District Council remove infectious cases in their ambulance by contract with the Skelmersdale Council.

NURSING IN THE HOME.

The Skelmersdale District Nursing Association is affiliated to the County Nursing Association. Its district includes Burscough Bridge, Lathom, Westhead, Hoscarr and Newburgh, all of which townships are now in the Urban District of Ormskirk.

The following table gives particulars of the work done in Skelmersdale by the Nursing Association during the year, 1st January, 1940. to 31st December, 1940.

CASES NURSED.					VISITS.			TOTAL.	
Midwifery.	Maternity.	Medical.	Surgical.	T.B.	Nursing.	Ante-Natal	T.B.	Cases.	Visits.
—	—	41	65	1	2991	—	278	107	3269

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

The Congregational Schoolroom in Witham Road is utilised every Wednesday morning as a Child Welfare Centre and Minor Ailments Clinic, under the direction of the appropriate Department of the County Medical Officer of Health.

An Immunisation Clinic is held every Tuesday afternoon at 2 o'clock on the same premises by the District Medical Officer of Health.

HOSPITALS: PUBLIC AND VOLUNTARY.

There are no hospitals in the town.

The Ormskirk Public Assistance Hospital, and the voluntary hospitals at Ormskirk and Wigan, provide ample accommodation for medical and surgical cases, and there is a maternity ward at the Public Assistance Hospital.

Infectious cases are admitted to the West Lancashire Rural Council's hospital at Aughton, by agreement with that Authority, whilst smallpox and cerebro-spinal fever cases go to Liverpool, also by agreement.

SECTION C. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER SUPPLY.

The supply of water in the district continues to be on the whole satisfactory in quality and quantity. 1650 houses are connected with the main.

The whole of the district is supplied with water by the Southport and District Water Board, from an artesian well, situated at Scarth Hill, in the parish of Lathom.

It was not found necessary during the year to examine the supply, as this is undertaken systematically by the Water Board who send copies of analyses to the Medical Officer of Health.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

The district is sewered on the partly separate system. The sewage from approximately 1,137 houses in the principal housing area is discharged by gravity through a 24 inch outfall sewer at the Council's Berry Street Disposal Works and that from 255 houses in this area, by a 15 inch outfall sewer at their Penny Lane Works.

The sewage at both works is treated by settlement and land irrigation, and periodical cleansing and repairs are carried out.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

Privy middens—110. No. of closets attached to these middens—143.

No. of pail closets—29.

No. of dry ashpits (excluding middens)—5.

No. of movable ashbins.—1502.

No. of houses on water carriage system—1650.

No. of fresh water closets—1502.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

During the year the Council decided to undertake this work by direct labour and a suitable refuse collection vehicle was purchased. The scheme was commenced on the 1st July, under the direction of the Sanitary Inspector, and at the end of the year satisfactory progress was being maintained.

SUMMARY OF WORK DONE IN THE SANITARY INSPECTOR'S DEPARTMENT DURING THE YEAR 1940.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.	Number of Informal Notices by Inspector.	Number of Formal Notices by Order of Authority.	TOTAL.
Dwelling Houses and Schools :			
Foul Conditions	3	—	3
Structural Defects	48	—	48
Dairies and Milkshops	—	—	—
Cowsheds	14	—	14
Bakehouses	8	—	8
Ashpits and Privies	4	—	4
Deposits of Refuse and Manure	1	—	1
Water Closets.....	11	—	11
Defective Yard Paving	—	—	—
House Drainage	26	—	26
Water Supply	—	—	—
Animals Improperly kept	—	—	—
Lack of Sanitary Dustbins	35	—	35
Insufficient Close Accommodation	6	—	6
Smoke Nuisances	—	—	—
Dangerous Buildings	1	—	1
Vermin Infestation	2	—	2
	159	—	159

SCHOOLS

The town is well supplied with four schools, three of which are voluntary.

The medical inspection of the children is undertaken by the School Medical Department of the Lancashire County Council.

The numbers on roll at the end of 1940 in all the schools totalled 833, exclusive of evacuees.

No structural improvements have been carried out at any of the schools during the year. A field behind the Methodist School has been rented and it is proving of great benefit at playtimes and for games as the playground is unpaved and not fit to use.

The Milk-in-Schools Scheme has been much restricted owing to the shortage of milk. It is interesting to note, however, that since the inception of the scheme, over 100,000 bottles of free milk have been distributed at St. Richard's R. C. School. A considerable number of bottles of "½d. milk" have also been purchased by the scholars and during the winter of 1940 an average of fifty cups of "Horlicks" was distributed each day.

SECTION D. HOUSING.

The standard of housing in the district generally is very low, although prior to the present hostilities some little progress was being made in the repair or demolition of certain of the worst properties.

The majority of the houses in the district are of the working-class type, and approximately 50% have only two bedrooms.

HOUSING STATISTICS FOR 1940.

No. of new houses erected during the year :—

(a) Total (including nos. given separately under (b)).....	—
(i) By the Local Authority	—
(ii) By other Local Authorities	—
(iii) By other bodies and persons	—

(b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts :—

(i) By the Local Authority —

(ii) By other bodies or persons —

1. INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR:—

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected
for housing defects (under Public Health
or Housing Acts) 71

(b) No. of inspections made for the purpose 142

(2) (a) Number of dwelling houses which were
inspected and recorded under Hous-
ing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 & 1932 —

(b) No. of inspections made for the purpose —

(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be unfit
for human habitation —

(4) Number of dwelling houses found not to be
reasonably fit for human habitation —

2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT
SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICE. —

No. of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in
consequence of informal action by the Local
Authority or their officers 71

3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING
THE YEAR NIL.

SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS ACT.

This Act is now administered by members of the County Medical Officer of Health's Department; the work was previously carried out by the County Police.

Three samples of milk and two of other foods were taken during the year, all of which were satisfactory.

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS AND MILKSHOPS.

At the end of the year there were 104 cows on 8 dairy farms. 9 cowkeepers, 9 dairies and purveyors of milk, 10 shops supplying milk in bottles, and 2 Registered Purveyors with premises outside the area.

Under the Milk in Schools Scheme, 10 samples of milk were taken for examination, one of which proved unsatisfactory.

During the year it was not found necessary to deal with any animals under the T.B. Order of 1938.

Cowsheds are inspected every three months. With two exceptions, their condition is poor.

MEAT.

No slaughtering was carried out during the year, and neither of the two slaughterhouses have been registered.

BAKEHOUSES.

There are 7 bakehouses in the town and limewashing is carried out periodically.

SECTION F. INFECTIOUS DISEASES. STATISTICS.

	Smallpox	Enteric Fever.	Scarlet Fever.	Measles.	Diphtheria.	Puerperal Pyrexia.	Erysipelas.	Cerebro-Spinal fever.	Poliomyelitis.	Malaria.	Whooping Cough.	Pneumonia.
Cases	—	—	—	47	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	2
Case Rate per 1000	—	—	—	8.05	—	—	—	—	—	—	1.2	.34
Deaths	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Death Rate per 1000	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	.17
Percentage of deaths to cases	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	50

It was not found necessary to resort to school closure during the year.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR, 1940.

NOTIFI BLE DISEASES.	TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED.													Total Deaths.	Hospital.		
	Total Cases at all Ages.	YEARS.													T. tal Cases removed to Hospital.	Deaths in Hospital of persons belonging to district	
		Un-der 1 year	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65 & over				
Smallpox																	
Scarlet Fever																	
Diphtheria																	
Enteric Fever																	
Measles	47	1	4	3	3	8	25	2	1								
Whooping Cough	7	1		1		2	3										
Acute pneumonia	2								1						1		1
Puerperal Pyrexia																	
Cerebro-spinal Fever																	
Acute poliomyelitis																	
Encephalitis Lethargica																	
Ophthalmia neonatorum.																	
Erysipelas																	
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	2												1				3
Other forms of Tuberculosis	6		2				2	1	1							2	1
TOTALS	64	2	6	4	3	10	30	3	3	1		1	1		2	5	2

The following table shows the number, monthly distribution, and nature of cases of infectious disease coming under the notice of the Medical Officer of Health during 1940 :—

	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Totals	Remitted to Hospital
Anthrax	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Small-pox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute primary and acute Influenzal Pneumonia	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Encephalitis Lethargica	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro-spinal Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Malaria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	—	2	1	—	—	5	4	5	5	8	6	11	47	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	6	7	—
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
MONTHLY TOTALS	—	3	1	—	—	5	5	5	5	9	6	17	56	—

SUMMARY OF HOSPITAL ADMISSIONS AND DISCHARGES, 1940.

ADMISSIONS.	Tonsilitis	.....	.....	.....	1
DISCHARGES.	Tonsilitis	.....	.....	.....	1
	Journeys with ambulance for patient	.....			2
	Journeys with ambulance for bedding	.....			4
	Houses attended for disinfection		.....		4
	No. of times disinfectant was used		.....		2
	Rooms sprayed	.....	.....	.....	7
	Articles stoved	.....	.....	.....	28

TABLE SHOWING INCIDENCE AND MORTALITY
FROM SCARLET FEVER, 1931—1940.

	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940
Cases	4	11	8	10	9	12	7	10	1	—
Deaths	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Case Rate per 1000 inhabi- tants	.64	1.7	1.3	1.6	1.5	1.97	1.1	1.65	.17	—
Death Rate per 1000 inhabi- tants	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

TABLE SHOWING INCIDENCE AND MORTALITY
FROM DIPHTHERIA, 1931—1940.

	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940
Cases	9	2	3	6	2	1	2	16	2	—
Deaths	—	1	1	—	2	1	—	2	—	—
Case per rate 1000 inhabi- tants	1.4	.16	.49	.99	.33	.16	.3	2.6	.33	—
Death rate per 1000 inhabi- tants	—	.08	.16	—	.33	.16	—	1.65	—	—
Fatality rate per 100 cases	—	50	33.3	—	100	100	—	12.5	—	—

Particulars of work done in connection with the scheme for Immunisation against Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria since the commencement in May, 1935, to December 31st, 1940.

SCHOOL.	Acceptances.	Total on register	Percentage immunised actually in school. 31/12/39.	Immunised against diphtheria only.	4 Injections aga.ins. Scarlet Fever	3 injections against both diseases.	2 injections against both diseases.	1 injection against both diseases.	Preliminary Schick test.	Preliminary Dick test.	Final Schick test	Schick negative.	Negative after re-test.	Absent or left when results were read.	Later refused treatment.
Council 1935-39 1940	231 4	454 491	10.59	— —	146 4	224 4	— —	1 —	— —	— —	249 1	226 1	14 1	5 —	3 —
Endowed 1935-39 1940	90 3	83 126	30.16	— —	57 2	94 3	— —	— —	6 —	2 —	84 —	73 —	— —	10 —	3 —
Methodist 1935-39 1940	108 2	133 135	41.48	— —	47 2	103 2	— —	2 —	2 —	— —	119 —	101 —	10 1	3 —	3 —
St. R'ard's 1935-39 1940	158 —	101 81	87.65	6 —	49 —	150 —	1 —	— —	13 —	— —	128 8	128 6	— 1	8 1	1 —
Over 1935-39 School age 1940	12 —	— —		9 —	— —	1 —	— —	— —	— —	— —	3 —	2 —	1 —	— —	— —
Under 1935-39 School age 1940	106 9	— —		101 9	5 —	5 —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —
Hospital 1935-39 1940	16 —	— —		15 —	— —	— —	— —	— —	1 —	— —	1 —	— —	— —	— —	— —
Totals 1935-39 1940	721 18	795 833	42.47	131 9	304 8	577 9	1 —	3 —	22 —	2 —	584 9	530 7	25 3	26 1	10 —
Evacuees 1939 1940	123 13	— 66		5 —	66 8	81 8	17 4	10 1	10 —	— —	— 44	10 37	— 2	— 2	— —

TUBERCULOSIS.

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1940.

Age Periods.				NEW CASES				DEATHS			
				Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
				M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Years.											
0—1	...	...	..								
1—5	...	...	..			2				1	
5—10	...	...	..			1	1		1		
10—15	...	...	..				1				
15—20	...	...	..				1				
20—25	...	...	..	1				1			
25—35	...	...	..								
35—45	...	...	..					1			
45—55	...	...	..	1							
55—65	...	...	..								
65 and upwards	...	...	..								
Totals				2		3	3	2	1	1	
				2		6		3		1	

NOTIFICATIONS ON FORM I BY MEDICAL OFFICERS OF HOSPITALS.

Public Assistance and Sanatoria and
General Hospitals. Pulmonary Hospitals

Pulmonary :—

Males — —
Females — —

Non-Pulmonary :—.

Males 1 —
Females 1 —

Dispensary and sanatorium treatment for tuberculosis is administered by the appropriate department of the Lancashire County Council.

INFLUENZA AND OTHER RESPIRATORY DISEASES.

One death occurred from influenza during the year. There was also one death due to pneumonia.

